



CWD Update

August 29, 2008

Chronic Wasting Disease Eradication Program

Provided by the Animal Industry Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture

Background:

The Michigan departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed the state's first case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a three-year old white-tailed deer from a privately owned cervid (POC) facility in Kent County on Monday, August 25, 2008.

The state quarantined all POC facilities, prohibiting the movement of all – dead or alive – privately-owned deer, elk, or moose. Officials do not yet know how the deer may have contracted the disease. To date, there is no evidence that CWD presents a risk to humans or to animals other than cervids.

MDA Actions:

The state-wide quarantine on all privately owned cervid facilities was put into place in order to control the movement of animals and prevent the potential spread of CWD. DNR and MDA staff delivered the quarantines to just under 600 facilities.

The facility in Kent County, where the index case was confirmed, was depopulated on Tuesday, August 26, 2008, by USDA Wildlife Services.

The first tier of traces from the index facility led to five facilities: three in Kent county, one in Montcalm county, and one in Osceola County. These facilities were quarantined by MDA. Records of sales and purchases are being reviewed.

The investigation is now into the second tier, and currently there are three facilities in Bay, Mecosta, and Kent counties that are quarantined and must provide records for review. There will more than likely be additional facilities in the second tier, as all record reviews in the first tier are not completed.

DNR Actions:

On Tuesday, August 26, 2008, the DNR immediately implemented provisions in the state's *Surveillance and Response Plan for CWD*.

- An immediate ban on all baiting and feeding of deer and elk in the Lower Peninsula. DNR conservation officers will step up surveillance and enforcement

efforts on baiting. Baiting and feeding unnaturally congregates deer into close contact, thus increasing both direct (animal to animal) and indirect transmission of contagious diseases such as CWD and bovine Tuberculosis (TB). Bait and feed sites increase the likelihood that those areas will become contaminated with the feces of infected animals, making them a source of CWD infection for years.

- A mandatory deer check for hunters who take a deer within the Kent County townships of Tyrone, Solon, Nelson, Sparta, Algoma, Courtland, Alpine, Plainfield, and Cannon, which contain the surveillance area. All hunters who take a deer during any deer hunting season this fall within the these townships will be required to visit a DNR deer check station so their deer can be tested for CWD. The DNR currently is seeking locations for additional deer check stations in the area to make it more convenient for hunters. To prevent unintentional spread of CWD, the only parts of deer harvested in the surveillance zone that will be allowed to be transported out will be boned meat, capes, and antlers cleaned of all soft tissues.
- All transport of live wild deer, elk, and moose will be prohibited statewide, including transport for rehabilitation purposes. Currently, there is no live animal test for CWD and infected animals often show no signs of illness for years in spite of being infectious for other animals. Movement for rehabilitation purposes may speed geographic spread of the disease.

POC Facilities Quarantined:

All POC facilities, except those that only have reindeer, are under quarantine in Michigan until the disease investigation is complete.

Disease Surveillance Table:

Index facility	Depopulated	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
1	Entire herd	5	currently 3	unknown	unknown

Education and Outreach:

News releases went out on Monday and Tuesday. MDA and DNR Directors provided a conference call interview with reporters on Monday. The Directors also provided live interviews for reporters on Tuesday morning.

MDA, DNR, MDCH, USDA, and MSU are collectively responding to calls and questions related to the actions taken to prevent the spread of disease.

Questions and Answers will be posted to the MDA, DNR, and Emerging Diseases websites.

A coordinated communications action plan is in place. MSU Extension, Michigan Deer and Elk Breeders, MUCC, and many other special interest groups have volunteered to assist with information distribution.

Information on CWD may be found on the Michigan Emerging Diseases website at www.mivhigan.gov/emergingdiseases.